

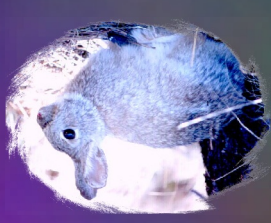
# Junior Ranger Naturalist's Handbook

Check off these plants and animals when you see them on the Monument.

☐ blue  
flax

☐ least  
chipmunk

☐ aspen

☐ cottontail  
rabbit

☐ red tailed  
hawk

☐ columbine

☐ elk or  
wapiti

☐ Indian  
paintbrush

☐ mule  
deer

☐ badger

☐ Golden  
eagle

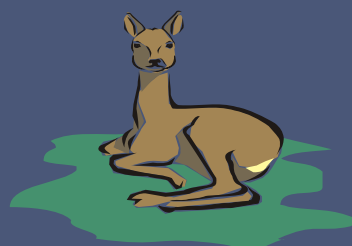
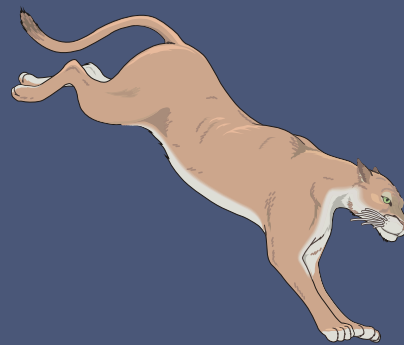
☐ mountain  
bluebell

☐ coyote

☐ Albert's  
squirrel

☐ Richardson's  
ground  
squirrel


## Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument



## Junior Ranger Book

# Welcome to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument!

We're happy you've chosen to become a Junior Ranger. Junior Rangers are special people who help us protect our National Park areas. If you are age 5-10, complete at least two (2) of the activities below and three (3) games in your Jr. Ranger book. If you are 11 or older, complete at least 3 of the activities below and all of your Jr. Ranger book. Check off each one as you finish it.

**Activities:**

- 1.        Take a tour of the Hornbek Homestead Property.
- 2.        Pick up five pieces of trash at the monument.
- 3.        Attend a ranger talk.
- 4.        Travel the Petrified Forest Loop or the Walk Through Time.
- 5.        Give a Jr. Ranger Safety Message (found below) to a visitor or family member.

When you are finished, return to the visitor center desk and review your activities with a ranger who will then sign your **Junior Ranger Certificate** and present you with your **Official Junior Ranger Badge**. Present your Junior Ranger Badge and certificate for a 10% discount on any one book sold by the Rocky Mountain Nature Association at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Visitor Center.

Junior Rangers should be accompanied by an adult to participate in this program. Use the park brochures (mammal, Hornbek, general), newspaper, and displays to help provide answers. If you need more help in answering questions, please ask a ranger.  
Good luck!

## Junior Ranger Safety Messages

Explain to a visitor of the monument why it is important to **NOT:**

- 1. **Litter**  
It can carry germs; it takes away from the beauty of the park; animals sometimes try to eat it and choke or get caught in discarded items.
- 2. **Feed Wildlife**  
Wildlife can become sick from eating unnatural foods; animals become accustomed to being fed; park visitors can be bitten by the animals.
- 3. **Collecting within the monument.**  
It is important to leave things as they are for other people to enjoy. **Take only pictures. Leave only footprints.**



# Junior Ranger



This certificate is awarded to

\_\_\_\_\_

For completing the requirements of the Junior Ranger Program  
at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

\_\_\_\_\_  
Park Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Junior Ranger Pledge

“As a Junior Ranger, I promise to help protect Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, my community, and the earth, through being an active and responsible friend of the environment. I will not feed or disturb wildlife, and leading by example will be a role model for others. I will leave all National Park areas a little better by picking up trash, staying on trails, and safely exploring nature.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Junior Ranger

## Jr. Detective (age 8 and up)



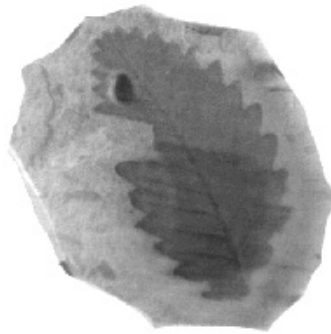
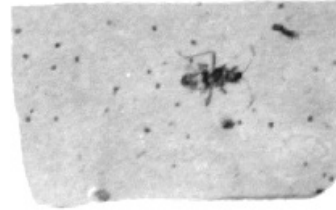
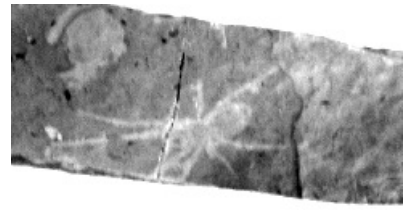
Look at the fossil pictures below



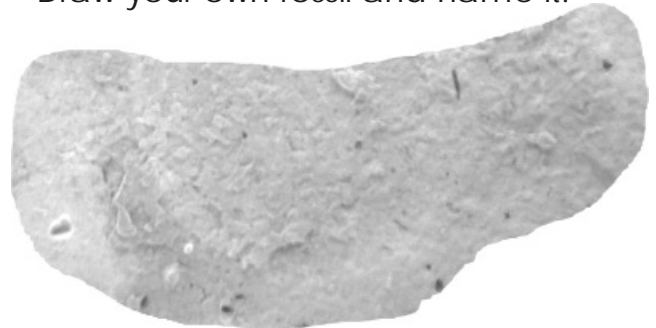
Match the pictures with the fossils in the visitor center display cases



Write down the name  
of each fossil you find



Draw your own fossil and name it!



In the front room of the visitor center is a display describing and showing the events leading to the formation of the Florissant valley. During these events, mudflows and ash falls helped to make and preserve the fossils we see today. Can you, by using this display, draw a sketch of these events? You are only limited by your imagination.

Jr. Artist Jr. Artist Jr. Artist Jr. Artist Jr. Artist

Jr. Artist Jr. Artist Jr. Artist Jr. Artist Jr. Artist

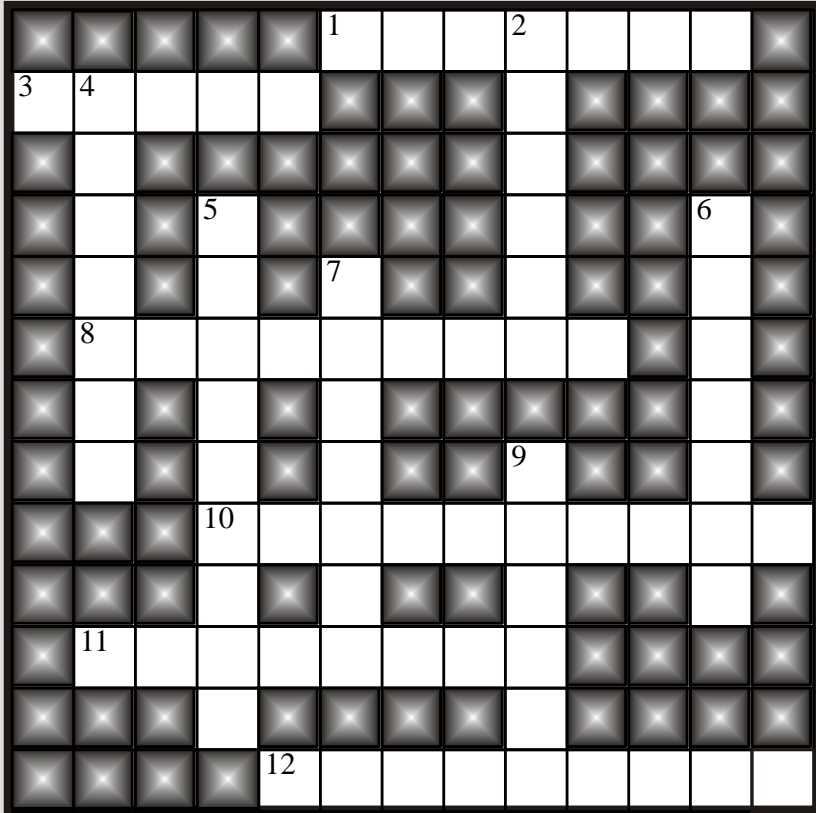
(Age 5 and up)

- 1
- A volcanic eruption created a \_\_\_\_\_, which surrounded the redwoods of Florissant.
- 3
- Ash from repeated volcanic eruptions combined with sediment from the lakeshore formed layers of rock called \_\_\_\_\_, where our fossils are found.
- 8
- Finding a \_\_\_\_\_ fossil is rare because the wings are so fragile (for a hint, look at the postcards in the Visitor Center).
- 10
- In French, \_\_\_\_\_ means "flowering" or "flourishing."
- 11
- The small sheep-like \_\_\_\_\_ lived here 34 million years ago.
- 12
- The Abert's squirrel and the porcupine eat the inner bark layer of the \_\_\_\_\_ pine for food.



DOWN

- 2
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is any evidence of life from the prehistoric past.
- 4
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Homestead is named after one of Florissant's first settlers.
- 5
- The \_\_\_\_\_ redwood stumps in the park are a type of fossil created by a mudflow.
- 6
- When the Guffey \_\_\_\_\_ erupted, a mudflow created a natural dam that formed ancient Lake Florissant.
- 7
- Thirty-five million years ago, a \_\_\_\_\_ forest existed in the Florissant valley.
- 9
- The Monument has the world's only fossil record of a \_\_\_\_\_ fly, which today lives only in Africa.



Age 8-up

True

Or

False

False

?

?

?

?

?

?

Circle whether the statement is 'True' or 'False'

1. There are dinosaur fossils at Florissant Fossil Beds.

True  
or  
False

2. 35 million years ago, this area had a climate very different from today.

True  
or  
False

3. Adeline Hornbek and her family were here before the Ute Indians.

True  
or  
False

4. Abert's squirrels eat seeds from ponderosa pine cones.

True  
or  
False

5. Adeline Hornbek's house was the size of a typical homesteaders home.

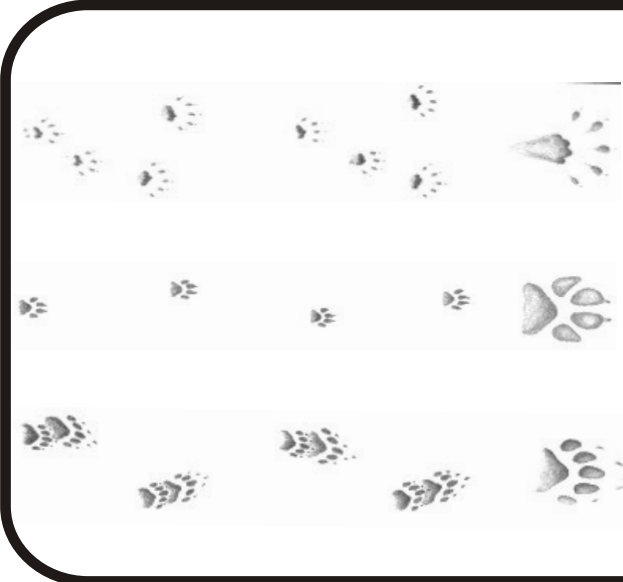
True  
or  
False

6. Richardson's ground squirrels hibernate in the winter.

True  
or  
False



Animals and people leave different looking tracks when they walk. See if you can match the tracks below with the animal that made them. Simply draw a line from the animal to the tracks they may have left behind.



Badger

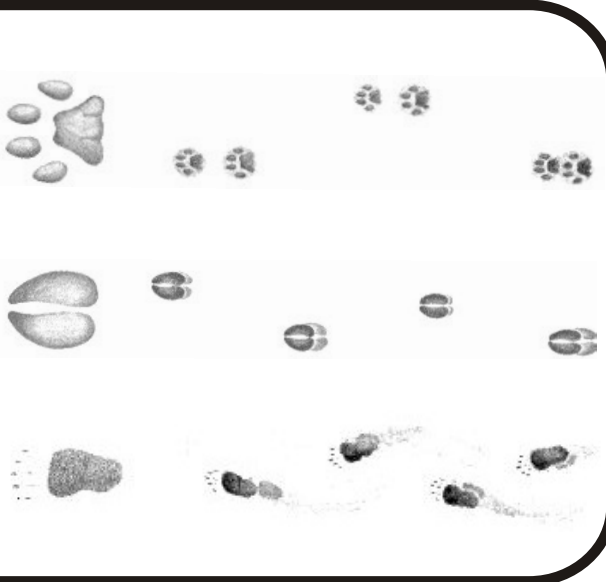
Coyote

Elk

Ground Squirrel

Mountain Lion

Porcupine



# What do I

# Eat?

(Age 8 and up)

## Animals

- 1. Hummingbird \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Abert's Squirrel \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Elk \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Coyote \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Golden Eagle \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Mule Deer \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Badger \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Black Bear \_\_\_\_\_

## Foods

- a) Ground Squirrels
- b) Ponderosa Pine
- c) Aspen
- d) Grasses
- e) Nectar
- f) Sagebrush
- g) Berries
- h) Insects

Match the animals with the foods they eat. Some foods can be used more than once.

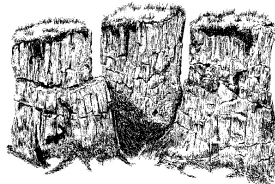
## Ground Squirrel Maze

One of the animals at the park, the Richardson's ground squirrel, makes tunnels for its underground home. With the help of the ground squirrels, can you find your way from the Hornbek Homestead to the Stump Trio without meeting a hungry badger or golden eagle?

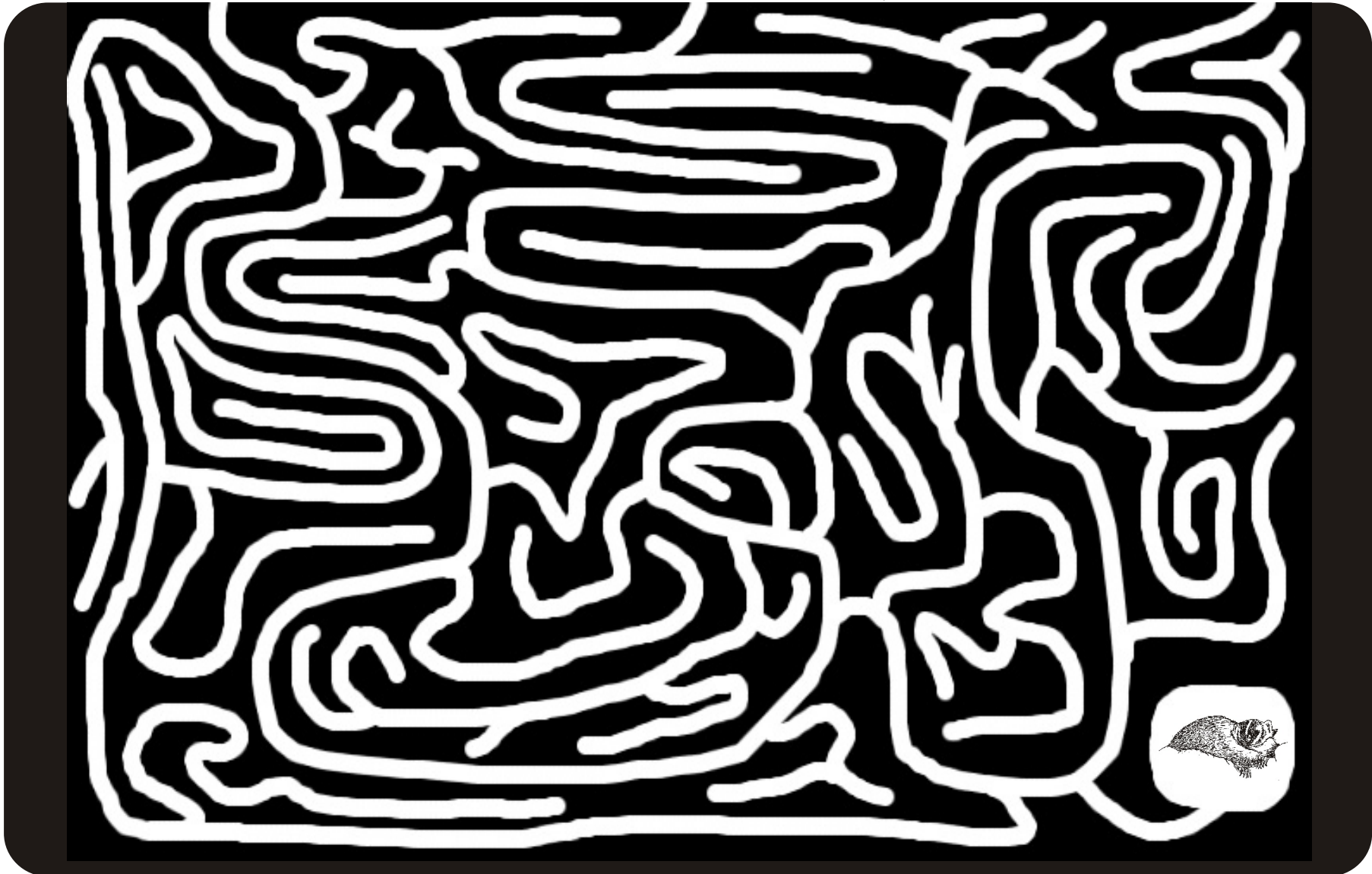


Start Here

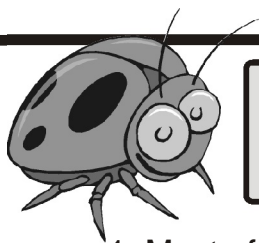
(Age 5 and up)



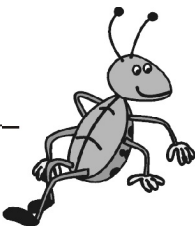
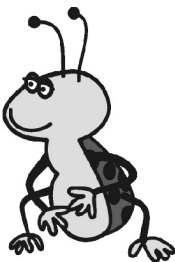
Finish Here



Fossil Bed Bugs



In this game, the fossil bed bugs have jumbled up certain words that tell about our fossils. Can you help straighten them out?



- Most of the fossils at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument are impressions of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. SNETCIS and STALPN
  - An erupting \_\_\_\_\_ created plumes of ash which washed into ancient \_\_\_\_\_ Florissant to help create and preserve fossils. NAVCOLO and AELK
  - Samuel \_\_\_\_\_ was a famous paleoentomologist (he studied fossil insects) that in the late 1800s reportedly collected 5000 fossils in five days! DUESDCR
  - Petrified \_\_\_\_\_ stumps are found in the park as a result of a volcanic \_\_\_\_\_ that surrounded their trunks. ODWORDE and UFMWLDO
  - Cap \_\_\_\_\_ formed from another mudflow has protected our fossils from erosion. COKR
- (Words to Choose From: lake, Scudder, rock, mudflow, insects, redwood, plants, volcano)

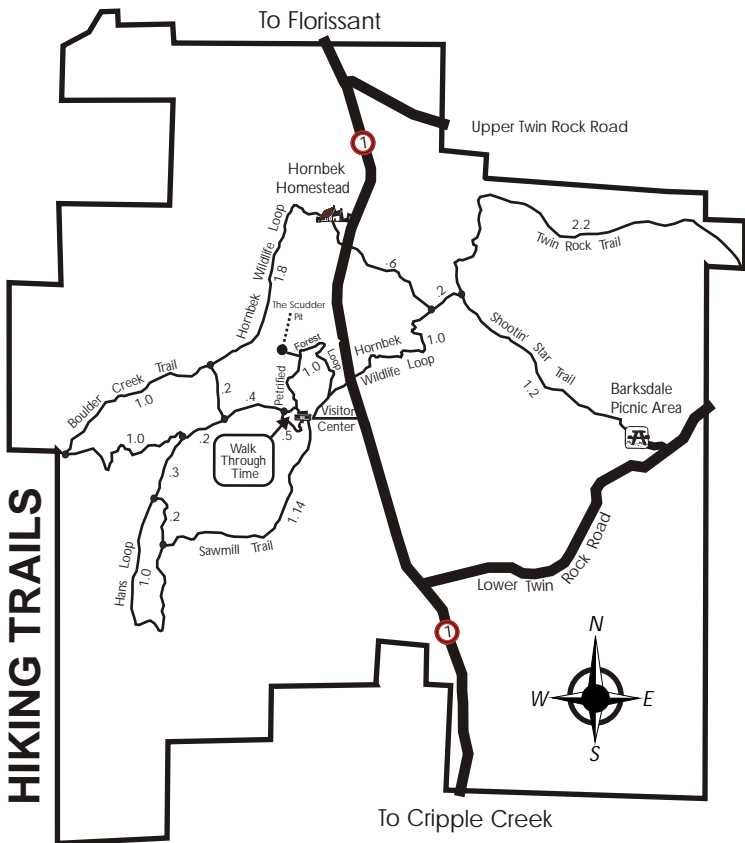
Treasure Hunt

Match the following items with their locations on the monument.

- The "Big Stump" \_\_\_\_\_
- Fossil Display \_\_\_\_\_
- The "Trio" \_\_\_\_\_
- Root Cellar \_\_\_\_\_
- Outcrop of Shale \_\_\_\_\_



- outside the visitor center
- Petrified Forest Loop
- Hornbek Homestead
- Just OFF the Petrified Forest Loop
- The Visitor Center

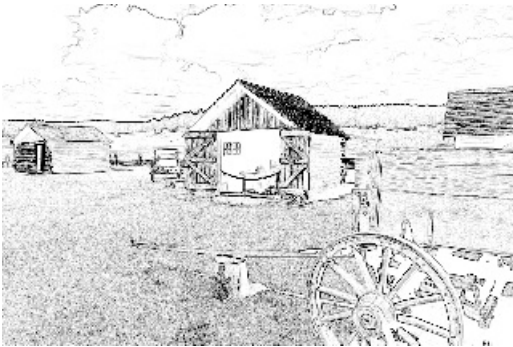


HIKING TRAILS

Homestead Word Hunt

The Hornbek Homestead is an original log home built in 1878. Learn about the homestead and Adeline Hornbek. Ask for one of our brochures at the front desk or find one at the brochure box in front of the Hornbek Homestead.

(Age 5 and up)



- The carriage shed stored wagons and buggies and probably was used to repair ranch equipment.
- Adeline cooked meals on a woodstove.
- The root cellar was built into a hillside, and served as Adeline's "refrigerator" to store and preserve food.
- Adeline Hornbek was the first person to homestead on land that is part of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.
- The parlor was a room in the house that was used for dancing, socializing, and entertaining guests.
- Passed in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln, the Homestead Act allowed settlers to obtain 160 acres of free public land.
- The Bunkhouse was used to house the hired men slept.



- Elliot Hornbek was Adeline's youngest son, named after her second husband.
- The barn was used to house animals and store tools and various farm equipment.

In this game, read the sentences to the left and circle the underlined words in the box below.

Z F R O O T C E L L A R O P  
G J E M Y V C U B S X Q W B  
A R D Y P A R L O R G I H U  
P N H E T U J M A W O G L N  
T U O K B Z Y H O R N B E K  
R Y M I A P F D B I C G K H  
O D E E R W J U T E N W L O  
Q C S R N U X F R A L E G U  
Y R T H A O P Z W B H L T S  
U A E W I W O O D S T O V E  
B M A N P Q K X O R Y B C N  
H A D E L I N E R G U T V J  
O W A S H N K Y L F P A F K  
V B C A R R I A G E S H E D  
W I T O H Q G J I L P A X Z